

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 25

Safety and Occupational Health Program

Chapter 6

Loss Compensation Program

Page 1

6.1 Purpose. This chapter provides a brief outline of the Federal Tort Claims Act.

The procedures for processing and investigating tort claims are detailed in the **BIA Safety and Health Handbook** available from the Division of Safety and Risk Management in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

6.2 Policy. It is the policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to promptly and fairly consider all tort claims and to settle the meritorious ones as quickly as possible and remain within the statutory adjudication period.

6.3 Appointment of Tort Claims Officer.

A. The Chief, Division of Safety and Risk Management, has been designated the Bureau Tort Claims Officer.

B. Regional Directors shall designate an appropriate number of tort claims officers, preferably, persons with investigative experience to:

- (1) Provide staff assistance on tort claims matters.
- (2) Assure the prompt and full investigation of accidents which may result in tort claims against the government prior to the filing of claim, and
- (3) Document the facts related to tort claims involving the Bureau or Department.